

# Our Service Together

## Mothering Sunday

### March 10th 2024



## An Acclamation for the Season

All: Alleluia, as a mother feeds her children at the breast you feed us with the food and drink of eternal life: help us who have tasted your goodness to grow in grace within the household of faith. Alleluia

## Preparation

All: This is the day that the Lord has made.  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.  
Through the brokenness of Christ, we become one body  
as one body we now gather in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to receive God's holy word, to pray for the needs of the world,  
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit  
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

## Our Confession

*Let us come to the light of Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.*

All: Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of your resurrection.  
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing.  
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven.  
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

*Be still for a moment in confession and in receiving God's Grace in Christ*

All: May Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive us our sins, open our eyes to God's truth, strengthen us to do God's will and give us the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Risen Lord. **Amen.**

## The opening prayer

All: The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept.*

All: As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever. Amen.

## The Psalmody Psalm 34.11-20 *We say the psalm aloud*

Come, my children, and listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

Who is there who delights in life and longs for days to enjoy good things?

Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from lying words.

Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous and his ears are open to their cry.

The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.

The righteous cry and the Lord hears them and delivers them out of all their troubles.

The Lord is near to the broken hearted and will save those who are crushed in spirit.

Many are the troubles of the righteous; from them all will the Lord deliver them.

He keeps all their bones, so that not one of them is broken.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

## Scripture Reading Colossians 3.12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

*At the end of the reading we say:*

All: This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

## Gloria

All: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## The Gospel      John 19.25-27

<sup>23</sup> When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. <sup>24</sup> So they said to one another, 'Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.' This was to fulfil what the scripture says, 'They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.'

<sup>25</sup> And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' <sup>27</sup> Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

*At the end of the reading we say:*

All:      This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

## A Reflection for the day      *Rev John Webb writes*

We are now just over halfway through Lent when it has become the custom to relax the stress on fasting and giving things up and instead to mark it as Mothering Sunday with posies of flowers and refreshments. The origins of Mothering Sunday are obscure and it has only recently been officially recognised by the church.

The explanation for the origin I like is that it is associated with young people who were in domestic service in Victorian times. I think of one of my grandmothers who was a cook in a 'big house'. She would have been recruited in her last year at the village school when, although she was only eleven she would have left home and lived in at the 'big house' with infrequent visits home. One of those special home visits would traditionally have been this Sunday, the fourth in Lent. I expect the family would have gone to church when one of the readings was an obscure passage from St Paul in which he wrote 'But Jerusalem which is above is free; which is the mother of us all.' From this developed the idea that the Church has a vocation to love and care for society in the same way as a mother has responsibility for her family. And that seems to be a theme which should be at the heart of every congregation.

It is also a reminder that just as a mother expresses her love for her children by providing shelter, clothes and food so the Church should be active in the same way. It is no good preaching to people who are cold and hungry – they simply won't hear. That is why it is particularly appropriate that the Gospel Reading is St John's account of Jesus' miracle of the feeding of the multitude – he was not only there to teach, but to care for their physical needs as well.

Another theme which seems to be gathering momentum is the idea of Mother Earth – a realisation that we are dependent on the world around us for our well-being and it needs to be nurtured. We are only just realising that the world can't just be plundered but needs to be nurtured, cared for and respected. It is a restatement of the miracle of creation so beautifully expressed in the Book of Genesis.

Perhaps the most obvious development is a recognition of the role of Mothers and resulted in the tendency, particularly by commercial interests, to refer to it as Mother's Day. And certainly they are the unsung heroes of many families and deserve recognition and should not be taken for granted.

It may seem strange and even bizarre that St Paul's obscure reference to 'our mother the Church' has resulted in the lectionary including the festival of 'Mothering Sunday'. Even more surprising is that Mother's Day has become an important day in the secular calendar. Perhaps this is a much-needed reminder of the importance of the church to society, of mothers to the family and the vital need to preserve the natural environment.

# The Creed

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Prayers *We make our intercessions*

O God of peace, who has taught us that in quietness and confidence shall be our strength; help us, as we come into your presence, to be still and know that you are God.

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ let us pray to the Father.

On this Mothering Sunday let us pray the church 'the mother of us all'. We pray for the church in this diocese, for Michael our Bishop and all laity and clergy who seek to serve us in this diocese May they be filled with the Spirit and speak with authority. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

On this Mothering Sunday let us give thanks and marvel at the world in which we live that its resources may be used responsibly for the good of all. We pray for all World leaders, that they may have the Spirit of wisdom. We pray for all the experts and scientists who have the difficult task of giving simple advice on complex issues. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

On this Mothering Sunday let us give thanks for our mothers and their care for us. Let us pray for all mothers particularly those in difficult situations. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

We pray for the hungry and starving, that the available food may be used for the benefit of all. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

We pray for our families, friends, and neighbours that we may serve Christ in one another and seek the common good. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

We pray for our schools, the children, teachers, and support staff as they face further disruption. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

We pray for the sick, suffering and dying ..... and we give thanks and pray for those who use their skill and risk their lives to care for them. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

Hear us as we remember those who have died..... According to your promises grant them a share in your eternal kingdom. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all your saints, we commend ourselves and the whole creation to your unfailing love.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and for evermore. Amen.

## The Collect

All: God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us*

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
for ever and ever. Amen.

## The Conclusion

All: Christ, as a light illumine and guide me this day.  
Christ, as a shield overshadow me.  
Christ under me, Christ over me;  
Christ beside me on my left and my right.  
This day be within and without me. Amen.